

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing false acceptance in a system for checking fingerprints which comprises a ~~sensor (1), characterized by the step of~~ sensor, said method comprising:

~~detecting a latent fingerprint on the sensor (1)~~

recording a fingerprint with the sensor; and

evaluating whether the recorded fingerprint originates from a latent fingerprint on the sensor or from a finger placed on the sensor on the basis of the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor in relation to an integral coordinate system of the sensor.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the evaluation step comprises comparing ~~(130)~~ the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint on the sensor.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of, if the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor and the location of the previously recorded fingerprint essentially correspond, considering the recorded fingerprint as originating from a latent fingerprint.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was considered as originating from a finger placed on the sensor

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was accepted.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of storing ~~(450)~~ information about the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor if the recorded fingerprint is not considered as originating from a latent fingerprint.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of comparing ~~(430)~~ the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of at least one feature of the recorded fingerprint with the location on the sensor of the corresponding feature of the previously recorded fingerprint.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of comparing ~~(430)~~ the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of a partial area of the recorded fingerprint with the location of a corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of matching ~~(440)~~ at least one partial area of a reference fingerprint with the recorded fingerprint to obtain at least one matching partial area of the recorded fingerprint, wherein the step of comparing the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of the matching partial area with the location of the corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the comparison of the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint is carried out only in the event that a matching between a reference fingerprint and the recorded fingerprint reveals that the recorded fingerprint originates from an authorised person.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for fingerprint checking comprising a sensor, ~~characterized in that~~ sensor, wherein the system is arranged to detect a latent fingerprint on the sensor ~~(4)~~ so as to prevent false acceptance, and wherein the sensor has an integral coordinate system.

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the system is further arranged to record ~~(100)~~ a fingerprint by means of the sensor and, on the basis of the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor, evaluate whether the recorded fingerprint originates from a latent fingerprint on the sensor or from a finger placed on the sensor.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 13, wherein the system further comprises a comparison means ~~(2)~~ for comparison of the location of a recorded fingerprint on the sensor ~~(4)~~ with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint on the sensor.

15. Canceled

16. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for digital information, which medium is readable for a computer system, the storage medium containing a computer program for preventing false acceptance of fingerprints, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said program implements the method in claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 3, further comprising the step of, if the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor and the location of the previously recorded fingerprint essentially correspond, considering the recorded fingerprint as originating from a latent fingerprint.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was considered as originating from a finger placed on the sensor

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was accepted.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of storing ~~(150)~~ information about the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor if the recorded fingerprint is not considered as originating from a latent fingerprint.

21. (New) A method of preventing false acceptance in a system for checking fingerprints which comprises a sensor, said method comprising:

recording a fingerprint with the sensor; and

evaluating whether the recorded fingerprint originates from a latent fingerprint disposed on the sensor or from a subsequent fingerprint disposed on the sensor on the basis of the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor in relation to an integral coordinate system of the sensor.

22. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein the subsequent fingerprint corresponds to that of a finger in contact with the sensor at the time the recorded fingerprint is recorded by the sensor.

23. (New) A system for fingerprint checking comprising:
a sensor having an integral coordinate system; and
a processing unit coupled to the sensor,
wherein the system is configured to record a fingerprint using the sensor; and
wherein the processing unit is configured to evaluate whether the recorded
fingerprint originates from a latent fingerprint disposed on the sensor or from a
subsequent fingerprint disposed on the sensor on the basis of the location of the
recorded fingerprint on the sensor in relation to the integral coordinate system of the
sensor.

24. (New) A system according to claim 23, wherein the processing unit is
configured to compare the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the
location of a previously recorded fingerprint on the sensor.

25. (New) A system according to claim 23, wherein the subsequent
fingerprint corresponds to that of a finger in contact with the sensor at the time the
recorded fingerprint is recorded by the sensor.